

BIRD CALENDAR 1925 21st YEAR

Bulletin No. 1

As regards weather conditions, and their effect on Birdlife, the past season has been without a parallel in the twenty years of this Calendar's history. Though the snows were light, the ground was continuously covered for nearly five weeks following New Year's Day. January was a rather cold month, and winter-birds, for reasons not well understood, were so scarce as to discourage all but the most ardent enthusiasts. In February the tables were completely turned; a series of bland, springlike days beginning on the fifth, and in spite of occasional reverses this unseasonable warmth lasted for three weeks, in inevitably advancing the spring-line of 35°, and with it bringing a host of migratory birds from the south. The sequel, however unwelcome to the birds, was quite remarkable; beginning on February 27 with a blizzard from the northwest, winter returned in such strength that the frozen ground was again snow-covered for a week. All singing ceased and the birds decamped; how far their remigration took them no one can say, but they probably followed the swingback of the spring-line to a more southerly region where food was again available.

By the sixth of March the tide had again turned, and on the days immediately following Robins, Bluebirds, and Grackles, with many followers, were again in evidence, and no further retreat has been necessary. The season just passed has therefore been remarkable for having given us three migratory movements among many of our birds, - an arrival, a departure southward, and a return -, all in less than a fortnight.

The first eighteen species listed below have been constant residents, in greater or less abundance, during the winter, as shown by the careful records of Dean Bailey, who made an intimate study of the Lake View section from October to March, and of Prof. Finfrock and Mr. Shipman both of whom have had many visitors to the food-stations maintained at their homes on the Heights and in Willoughby. Other resident birds are entered under the dates when they have been casually observed. It is interesting to find the Song Sparrow remaining with us in apparently greater numbers than formerly, and Mrs. Ruedy both saw and heard one singing in characteristic fashion, with the introductory 3-bar notes, on the Heights in January.

The eventful history of the Vermilion Eagles during the past year is briefly as follows;-

1924, April 10 (about). Three eaglets hatched - a record number - and later successfully reared in their ancient eyrie.

November 23 (about). A male Eagle, assumed to be one of the mated pair, shot in the vicinity of the nest.

1925, February 12, Female Eagle, with another bird, assumed to be the new mate, seen for the first time since November at the old nest.

March 6-7 (about) New eggs laid at the beginning of the 36th season of continuous occupancy of the eyrie.

March 7, Word received from Dr. A.R. Hatton, of the Cleveland City Council, that the efforts which the University had been making for many

months to obtain possession of the mounted skin of the dead eagle, -as a historical specimen to go with the records of the living bird-, the matter having been referred to the Governor of the State, has been successful. The specimen will be remounted and exhibited at the State Fair at Columbus in autumn, the Museum and the University.

March 10 (at about 7 p.m.) Total destruction of the great eyrie in thunder storm, which broke the eagles' tree above the guy wires and sent nest and eggs crashing to the ground.

March 21. Unverified report that the Eagles had started the building of a new (and fifth) nest in the neighborhood.

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1. American Crow; Reported almost constantly by Dean Bailey and others from October to March, but their winter-roost has not been discovered since that which formerly existed at Lake View was broken up; Dec. 24, flock of 25, and Jan'y 4 upwards of 75 at Willoughby, Mr. Shipman; Jan'y 8, Wade Park (4) by Professor Hulme.
2. Bob-white; Dec. 13, thirty flushed by Dean Bailey from a bushy sink-hole, where they were sheltering; Jopling's Woods, two, Prof Finfrock; Jan'y 4, covey of 10, Willoughby, Mr. Shipman.
3. American Eagle; the following notes are from the records of Mrs. Otto Buerhing and Mrs. F.E. Ranney, who have been on the watch for the Vermilion eagles since the reported killing of one of the pair in November; Jan'y 6, one eagle, and thereafter until the 12th, one seen almost daily moving about on the lake-shore or in the neighborhood of the nest; they have no records from late November until the above dates; Feb'y 12, one eagle was seen by Mrs. Buehring in the center of the nest (probably engaged in rebuilding it), while another was standing on the margin, the first time two birds had been seen together, showing that the female had already found a new mate; thereafter the two were seldom seen at one time, and in March, up to the 10th, the date of the destruction of the eyrie, one bird only was seen. As the event proved, one of the eagles was constantly engaged in incubation from Mar. 6 or possibly earlier.
4. Pheasant; Introduced from England, where several species and numerous hybrid races exist, either wild or semi-domesticated. Feb'y 1, two females were put up from our field where they were feeding, and the evidence from their tracks, characterized by their remarkably perfect alignment, showed that they kept in our neighborhood for over a month. On March 7 one of these birds dropped into our drive close to the house, and began exploring the yard and adjoining field; moving rapidly, with head and tail close to the ground, it might easily be mistaken for a quadruped, and its obliterative coloration is perfect.
5. Blue Jay; Noted as fairly constant, especially at food-stations, by all our observers.
6. Cardinal; fairly constant at food-boxes, but otherwise variable; Dec. 24, at Willoughby Mr. Shipman counted ten, which appeared to be feeding on dried wild grapes.

7. Sparrow Hawk; Infrequently reported from December to March; Dec. 24, in Willoughby, Mr. Shipman saw one in the act of eating a captured mouse.
8. Black-capped Tit; all winter and constantly at some of the food-boxes.
9. Tufted Tit; Feb'y 7, 14 and Mar. 7, Lake View, Dean Bailey; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
10. Downy Woodpecker; Fairly constant, at food-stations especially, where the same bird may make many appearances.
11. Hairy Woodpecker; Noted only at the window-boxes referred to above.
12. Tree Sparrow; Very constant at Lake View, Oct. 19, Mar. 7, Dean Bailey; also at the food-box of Mr. Shipman, who saw upwards of 50 at Willoughby on Jan'y 4; Jan'y 10, Shaker Lakes, (3), Prof. Hulme; Feb' 7, Oak Rd., Cleveland Hts., and Feb'y, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
13. House Sparrow; becoming every year more numerous and more obnoxious, if possible, to all who desire to retain the native birds about our homes.
14. Junco; fairly constant, Lake View, and at food-stations, according to observers noted above; Jan'y 4, Willoughby, (25-30), Mr. Shipman.
15. White-breasted Nuthatch; occasional or constant, according to locality, all winter, but never numerous.
16. Song Sparrow; all winter 1-3 at a time, once singing in Jan'y Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy; very constant, Dec 6 to Mar. 7, and heard singing Feb'y 14, Lake View, Dean Bailey; Feb'y 1, Wade Park, (1) Prof. Hulme; Feb' 8, 2863 Noble Rd., several singing, and Feb'y 15, six birds flushed from woods of adjoining allotment.
17. Starling; imported from England, and rapidly spreading in this State. Dec. 24, Willoughby, (5), and Jan'y 16, (15), Mr. Shipman; Feb'y 23, Wade Park, (3) Prof. Hulme.
18. Great Blue Heron; the story of this bird, as given by Mr. Shipman, of Willoughby, is as follows: found disabled by the cold, captured and, after restoration seemed to be complete, banded and liberated on the river. In the course of a week the bird disappeared, and later Mr. Shipman received a card from the Biological Survey in Washington, saying that his 'band' had been returned and that his bird had been killed at Ravenna on Jan'y 11.
19. Bronzed Grackle; Jan'y 2, Oak Rd., Cleveland Hts., (1) Prof. Finfrock; Mar. 7, Lake View (small flock) Dean Bailey; Mar. 8, on food-shelf, Kenilworth Rd., Cleveland Hts., (1), Prof. Harris, and Adelbert Campus (3) Dr. Visscher; Mar. 10, Wickliffe, and Mar. 11, Willoughby and Painesville (two reported in latter on 5th) Mr. Shipman; Mar. 11, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
20. Flicker; Jan'y 3, Oak Rd., (1), and Feb'y 4, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock; Mar. 8, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
21. Robin; Jan'y 4, Willoughby (2), Mr. Shipman; Feb'y 4, Strongsville (5-6) Miss Ordner; Feb'y 10, Oak Rd., (1) Prof. Finfrock; Feb'y 16, Adelbert Campus, (1) Dr. Visscher; Feb'y 16, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy; Feb'y 24, Euclid Beach, Miss Kerlin; Feb'y 28, Lake View (last seen there Oct. 18) Dean Bailey; Feb'y 13, Willoughby, F.N. Shankland.
22. Brown Creeper; Scarce during the winter, only four reports of single individuals were seen from Jan'y 4 to March 7.

23. Chewink; Jan'y 4, Lake View, Dean Bailey; Jan'y 31, Brecksville, (1 male) by Messrs Finfrock and Shipman. Mar. 26, So. Park Blvd. (1) Donald Hulme; Lake View (1) Prof. Hulme.
24. Golden-crowned Kinglet; Jan'y 4, Willoughby, Mr. Shipman. April 4, Oak Rd., Prof. Finfrock.
25. Pine Siskin; Jan'y 4, Willoughby (4), Mr. Shipman; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
26. Great Horned Owl; Jan'y 4, Willoughby, Mr. Shipman.
27. Pileated Woodpecker; Jan'y 4, Willoughby, (1) Mr. Shipman; Jan'y 31, Brecksville, (1) Prof. Finfrock.
28. Meadow Lark; Jan'y 10, So. Park Blvd., (1) Prof. Hulme; Mar. 7, Willoughby (2) singing, Mr. Shipman; Mar. 8, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
29. White-throated Sparrow; Jan'y 16, Willoughby (2) Mr. Shipman; Mar. 24, Lake View (1) Prof. Hulme; April 19, Jopling's Woods, Willoughby, Prof. Finfrock.
30. Cedarbird; Jan'y 16, Willoughby, (15-20), feeding on fruits of English hawthorn, Mr. Shipman; Feb'y 22, Mayfield Center, Prof. Finfrock.
31. Horned Lark; Jan'y 16, Willoughby (4-5) Mr. Shipman.
32. Herring Gull; Jan'y 18, Lake View, Feb'y 28, Dean Bailey; Feb'y 14, Mentor, Prof. Finfrock.
33. Red-tailed Hawk; Feb'y 15, Mayfield Center, Prof. Finfrock.
34. Bluebird; Feb'y 22, Mayfield Center, Prof. Finfrock; Mar. 2, Willoughby (2) Mr. Shipman; Mar. 8, Gordon Park (2) Dr. Visscher; Mar. 8, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
35. Mourning Dove; Mar. 7, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
36. Redwing Blackbird; Mar. 7, Lake View, Prof. Finfrock; Mar. 13, Vermillion, singing.
37. Killdeer; Feb'y 25, over Adelbert Campus (1); Mar. 7, Willoughby, (1) Mr. Shipman; Mar. 8, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy; Mar. 10, Rockefeller Park, Prof. Hulme.
38. Hooded Merganser; Mar. 8, 143rd St., and Lake (1) Dr. Visscher.
39. Blue-winged Teal; Mar. 14, Mentor Marsh, Prof. Finfrock.
40. Ruffed Grouse; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
41. Scaup Duck; Mar. 14, Mentor Marsh, Prof. Finfrock; Mar. 19, Wade Park, Prof. Hulme.
42. Red-shouldered Hawk; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
43. Red-breasted Nuthatch; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
44. Marsh Hawk; Mar. 14, Lost Nation Rd., Prof. Finfrock.
45. American Goldfinch; Mar. 14, Jopling's Woods, Prof. Finfrock.
46. Amazon or Blunt-tailed Green Parrot; Mar. 16, corner Adelbert Rd. and Euclid Ave., Mr. Hubbell; climbing about on the trees and helping itself with bill, parrot-fashion; flying easily and evidently enjoying its liberty; a native of Central and South America.